

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; objected to claim 4 for informalities; rejected claims 1, 8, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hirayanagi (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0192598); and rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 13, 15, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hagiwara et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0100624) in view of Yasuda et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0016338). The Examiner also objected to claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, and 19 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, and 19. Applicants have rewritten claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, and 19 in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has also been amended to correct a typographical error. Therefore, claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, and 19 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 13, 15-16, and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. The rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are rendered moot, in view of the cancellation thereof.

Applicants have also amended claim 20. Applicants believe the amendment to claim 20 overcomes the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

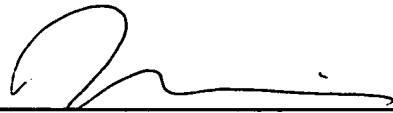
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that pending claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, and 20 are allowable. A timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance of is earnestly requested.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 22, 2005

By: 
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